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UM ARCHIVIST TRACES LIFE OF ANDREW B. HAMMOND  
AT FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BANQUET

MISSOULA--

Describing Andrew B. Hammond's success as "neither commonplace nor unique," University of Montana Library archivist Dale L. Johnson related much of the early history of Missoula and Hammond's life to about 140 persons Wednesday evening at the annual UM Friends of the Library banquet.

The banquet, held Wednesday in the University Center Gold Oak Room, honored a number of Missoula area authors.

Johnson said that Hammond, president and manager of one of the largest lumber companies in the American West at the time of his death in 1934, had "built his business career and financial success upon the advantages offered in a developing frontier community."

"Others who lived in western Montana in the 1870s could have accomplished much the same thing, but most didn't," Johnson said.

The UM Library archivist reviewed much of Hammond's life.

Hammond, born in New Brunswick, Can., in 1848, moved to Montana when he was 20 years old. After working at a variety of jobs in Montana and Washington, he accepted a position with the Bonner and Company store in the spring of 1870. Bonner and Company, a partnership of E. L. Bonner and Richard Eddy, was in competition with the Worden and Company general store established by the founders of Missoula, C. P. Higgins and Frank L. Worden.

Hammond later became a partner in the Bonner and Company firm, providing himself with the financial basis for all his later undertakings. Hammond was a former owner of the Big Blackfoot Lumber Co. (now Champion-U.S. Plywood) and a stockholder in the Missoula Mercantile Co., First National Bank, Florence Hotel, Missoula Gazette, and the South Missoula Land Co., which donated part of the land where the University is now located.

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Besides his business dealings, Hammond was a key figure in the Clark-Daly feud of 1888 and the timber suits brought by the Federal government against the Montana Improvement Co., a conglomeration formed by Hammond, Eddy, Bonner, Daly and the Northern Pacific Railroad for timber exploitation.

"Certainly the raw materials available in western Montana and the location of Missoula aided tremendously in his success, but these attributes were also available to others," Johnson said.

"Circumstances were in his favor: he was befriended by men who were willing to aid him financially, he was starting out in an area where capital was relatively scarce and of less importance than in the populated East, and Montana was far enough from effective governmental control to allow the maximum exploitation of public resources with a minimum of interference," Johnson said.

Several University administrators, including UM President Robert T. Pantzer, Library Dean Earle C. Thompson and George W. Oechsli (pronounced Oxlee), executive director of the UM Alumni Association, commended members of the UM Friends of the Library at the banquet for supporting library projects, including purchase and donation of additional library books.

Oechsli said the Alumni Book Fund Drive, being conducted through the UM Alumni Association Development Fund, has reached \$139,000. Most of the financial donations to the book fund have been in small amounts, although there have been several large contributions, he said.

Oechsli said the contributions have come from people from all walks of life, including students, alumni and friends of the University.

Richard L. Gercken, assistant professor of humanities and UM librarian, praised the professional achievements of the authors honored at the banquet. Among those honored were Warren J. Brier, Dorothy Johnson, A. B. Guthrie Jr., Virginia Johnson, Barbara Corcoran, Archie Joscelyn, K. Ross Toole, Madeline DeFrees, Richard Hugo, Jesse Bier, David M. Rorvik and H. G. Merriam.

State legislator and former Missoula mayor George F. Turman was master of ceremonies at the banquet. He was assisted by Arthur Deschamps Jr. (pronounced Day-shaw), who introduced a number of the banquet guests.

Entertainment was provided by the Montana Woodwind Quintet. University faculty members who are quintet members are Nancy Cochran, French horn; Jerry Domer, oboe; Mary Jean Simpson, flute; Edwin Rosenkranz, bassoon, and William Manning, clarinet.